



# FACTS

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## ABOUT PESTICIDES

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### PESTICIDE SAFETY IN YOUR HOME

Pesticides are substances which are used to kill or control a pest - an organism such as insect, plant, fungus, mite or rodent which is found in a place where it is not desired. Pests, especially insects, are a nuisance about the home when they invade food, causing waste or harbouring diseases. They may eat clothing, carpeting or furniture or they may bite pets or people. In these circumstances, pesticides may be the necessary tool to remove these pests.

In order to use pesticides to their best advantage, the home-owner must be well informed about their safe and correct handling and use. Observe the following precautions.

#### PURCHASING

Always carefully consider the pesticide you are purchasing. Check the label for the insect you wish to treat. In order to assure that the product is effective, the insect you wish to control should be listed on the label.

If the product you choose is a spray, note whether it is a surface or space spray. Surface sprays are applied to floor base-boards, shelving, etc., to leave an active residual quantity of pesticide to attack crawling insects. In contrast, space sprays are short-lived, more dilute pesticides which are sprayed into the air to attack flying insects.

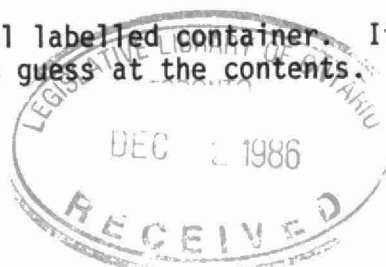
Pesticides are sold at garden centres, hardware stores and exterminators' outlets. If you have a small problem to overcome, purchase a small quantity of pesticide. This avoids disposal or storage problems.

#### SAFE STORAGE

As soon as you arrive home with the pesticide, - whether it is mothballs, resin strips, weedkiller, or insecticide - find a secure place to store it, if possible a locked compartment.

Choose a place which is out of the reach of children or pets. Be sure it is away from food, medicine, housekeeping supplies or garden supplies (seeds, fertilizers) to avoid any possibility of accidental contamination. Also, check the label for any special precautions. If the pesticide is flammable, do not place near heat.

Keep the pesticide tightly closed, in its original labelled container. If an unlabelled container is discovered, discard it. Don't guess at the contents.



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## SAFE USE

Always read the label on the pesticide container everytime the pesticide is used. It is easy to forget an important caution or application method.

Never allow children to assist with a pesticide application. Be sure all pets and their feeding dishes are removed from the treatment area - this includes birds and their cages, aquaria, as well as dogs and cats.

If you are treating cupboards where food, dishes or utensils are stored, remove the food or dishes first. Do not allow pesticide to contaminate food or dishes. After the treatment, cover the shelving with foil or new shelf paper before replacing these goods.

When you are applying the pesticide, be careful. If you spill pesticide on your skin, immediately wash it off with soap and water. If you accidentally spill some pesticide, wipe it up with paper towelling or tissues and discard safely.

Work efficiently to limit the time of inhalation of the pesticide spray or dust. Never smoke while working with pesticides since pesticide may be carried to your mouth on the cigarette. As well, many pesticides are flammable.

If you must dilute the pesticide or mix it with a solvent, do not work in the kitchen sink or use eating utensils which could be accidentally placed back in service. Make up only enough pesticide for the present use. Avoid any chance of contamination. Mix outdoors or in a well ventilated area.

When you have completed the application of the pesticide, clean up. Wash your hands and face with soap and water. Remove clothing and launder separately from other family clothing before wearing again. If a residual pesticide has been applied, leave the premises for several hours to allow the residual to dry. Leave the windows open to allow the solvent of the pesticide to disperse. Occasionally, this solvent may be irritating.

If you have any pesticide left over which is not in the original container, check the label to see if you have another immediate use. If you have no other use, dispose of this diluted excess by digging a hole, eighteen inches deep, away from any water drainage area, then pour the excess in, carefully fill in the hole.

## DISPOSAL OF EMPTY CONTAINERS

An empty pesticide container should never be used again. It may be disposed of safely by wrapping in newspaper or a plastic bag and placing in the garbage can. Cardboard containers, sacks, tins or bottles should be treated in the same manner. Never burn empty pesticide containers - the smoke or fumes produced may be toxic.

## EMERGENCY!

After all safety precautions, suppose an accident occurs. You spill pesticide on yourself, then feel ill later; or someone accidentally swallows some pesticide. Immediately read the label on the pesticide container for first aid treatment.

With container in hand, immediately call your doctor or nearest Poison Control Centre. Read the details on the label to the doctor - name of product, active chemical ingredient, antidote - and ask the doctor what to do. If you go to the hospital, take the label with you.

For further information or assistance, contact your local representative of the Pesticides Control Section, Ministry of the Environment.

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